

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/687,243

Examiner

Ronald D. Hartman Jr.

Applicant(s)

HALE ET AL.

Art Unit

2121

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the After Final amendment filed on 5/20/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-50 (renumbered as claims 1-31 respectively).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-19 have been canceled and claims 20-50 have been added.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 20-50 are allowed.

As per claims 20-50, specifically independent claims 20, 24, 27, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 45, 47 and 49, the prior art of record fails to teach a system and method for managing the loading of patrons to an attraction in an entertainment environment wherein patrons are permitted access to the attraction via a traditional queuing manner (first in first out) in addition to a reservation method, wherein a hierarchy of patrons is adopted that is based on the patrons remotely located from the entertainment environment and patrons actually located at the entertainment environment, in combination with the other claimed features and or limitations as claimed by the claimed invention.

It is once again noted that the closest available prior art was issued to Sim et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,529,786, in view of Maeda et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,987,420, in which a reservation system and method for amusement or theme parks is disclosed. Sim's combined system (Sim in view of Maeda) briefly discloses the use of a hierarchy of patrons, but does not expand on this other than to simply state that a hierarchy exists. The applicants current amendments to the claims provide for the hierarchy to be based on whether the patron is within the entertainment environment (amusement or theme park) or not, and this distinction and feature is not taught by the prior art of record, or made obvious by any combination that the examiner is aware of, and therefore this inclusion of this feature forms the basis for indicating the allowance of claims 20, 24, 27, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 45, 47 and 49.

Claims 21-23, 25-26, 28-30, 32-33, 39-44, 46, 48 and 50 are allowed as they all depend from allowed base claims, that is, from claims 20, 24, 27, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 45, 47 and 49, as previously mentioned.

**Conclusion**

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald D Hartman Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272 - 3684. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 11:30 am - 8:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached at (571) 272 - 3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ronald D Hartman Jr.  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2121

XROH

  
**Anthony Knight**  
**Supervisory Patent Examiner**  
**Group 3600**